NATURE CONSERVANCY NEWS

Volume 9 - Number 2
March 1959
Cumulative No. 39

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NATURE CONSERVANCY PROJECTS

The list of Nature Conservancy projects grows. As of March 1959, there are 34 of these. Some are completed because either there are no opportunities for further enlargement, or these opportunities are definitely limited by surrounding conditions. The rest of them are "incomplete" because there are local plans for enlargement, fund-raising is still in progress, or the projects are new.

Two years ago when a similar project summary was presented, 14 areas were described. Now, there are 39, involving a total area of some 11,000 acres in 14 States, of which, 3,000 acres have been acquired.

In most instances, a description of the various projects has been prepared by some individual who has personal knowledge of the area. These articles are signed. In those cases where specific information has not been supplied, reliance has been placed upon office files.

Omitted from this current list are five projects approved by the Board of Governors in March 1959. These include Lost Valley, Arkansas; Lily Ponds, Jam-Up Bluff and Cave, and Carsonhurst, Missouri; and Garrapata Canyon, Calif.

BATTLE CREEK CYPRESS SWAMP
Calvert County, Maryland

Battle Creek Cypress Swamp on the west side of Chesapeake Bay near Prince Frederick, offers a surprise to many who believe bald cypress stands are found only in the deep south. In Calvert County, less than 50 miles from Washington, visitors can see interesting cypress knees and a fine stand of vigorous young cypress trees--while sitting in their car on state route 506 which bisects the area.

Fortunately, the forest, one of the most northerly in the country, is in good condition. The largest tree in the forest is over 100 feet high and 16 feet in circumference. Surrounding this tree in all directions are hundreds of cypress knees of all sizes.

A highway bridge separates the fresh and salt or brackish water. At the lower end, the tidal stream widens out and merges into the broad tidal Patuxent River.

In March, 1957, the Nature Conservancy purchased the 100-acre forest after the lumber interests had relinquished cutting rights. Some funds yet remain to be raised.

--G. FLIPPO GRAVATT, Nature Conservancy Representative for Maryland and District of Columbia.

BERGEN SWAMP
Genesee County, New York

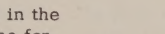
Bergen Swamp in Genesee County, New York, comprises 2,000 acres of forest and open swamp lying in a shallow depression skirted on the north by a small stream. The upland margins are wooded with hemlock, hardwoods and white pine, while the poorly drained center consists of extensive open marl beds fringed with dense stands of northern white cedar. The vegetation of the marl beds is particularly noteworthy for its rare plants, but the whole area is sufficiently extensive to provide habitats for a wide variety of plant and animal life.

The Bergen Swamp Preservation Society, a local membership organization incorporated in 1936, has been acquiring land in the swamp over a period of about seventeen years to establish a natural area. Its present holdings come to about 1,000 acres. In 1955, a gift of $3,000 for land purchase from the Old Dominion Foundation was transmitted to the Society through the Nature Conservancy. Eventually, an additional 800 acres is needed to round out this sanctuary.

--RICHARD H. GOODWIN, Member, Bergen Swamp Preservation Society, Inc.

BYRAM RIVER GORGE
Fairfield County, Connecticut

The features of the Byram River Gorge greatly resemble those of the Mianus River Gorge in New York. The project, authorized in November 1958, has not yet been implemented. (E.N.M.)



ARTHUR W. BUTLER MEMORIAL SANCTUARY
Westchester County, New York

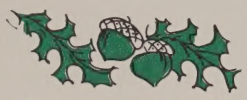
In December, 1954, Mrs. Anna R. Butler, in memory of her husband, presented to the Nature Conservancy some 230 acres of wild land in the Town of Bedford. The land had been acquired by the late Mr. Butler around the turn of the century from its farmer-owners. Some of the former farmland now holds sturdy stands of hemlock, spruce and white pine, planted as seedlings by Mr. Butler many years ago. Otherwise, the area has remained untouched for over 50 years.

In 1957 a generous neighbor, Mr. Walter Huber, contributed an additional 20 acres of woodland, bringing the total of the sanctuary to 250 acres. About one quarter of this area consists of meadow, marsh and swamp, while, on the rising ground toward its interior, a fine deciduous forest clothes its hills, ridges and valleys.

Mrs. Butler's wisdom, foresight, and generosity have enabled the Nature Conservancy also to maintain a warden-guide on duty throughout the year. The sanctuary is managed by a Project Committee consisting of four administrators and twelve trustees. The administrators are appointed, one by each of the two garden clubs in Bedford (the Bedford Garden Club and the Rusticus Club), one by the Bedford Audubon Society, and one by the Nature Conservancy. These four, in turn, appoint the trustees--all nearby residents.

A small parking area has been built off Chestnut Ridge Road, where start the several miles of trails, traversing the differing habitats. A beginning check-list of the flora and fauna is available for distribution to visitors.

--ROBERT J. HAMERSHLAG, Chairman of Administrators, The Arthur W. Butler Memorial Sanctuary.



CALEDONIA OAKS NATURAL AREA
Houston County, Minnesota

The 80-acre Caledonia Oaks Natural Area in the southeastern corner of Minnesota was acquired by purchase by Nature Conservancy direct from the Federal Government. Although one end of the tract had been cleared and some of the land grazed, the area is in a virgin condition.

White oak is dominant, running up to 30 inches in diameter, with bur oak and shagbark hickory as its main associate. Black oak, basswood, maple, elm, and butternut trees also occur. Shrubs are widespread but sparse because of the dense shade. The ground cover also is sparse. Litter is generally scanty or absent.

CORKSCREW SWAMP SANCTUARY
Collier County, Florida

The Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary protects samples of the characteristic biologic communities that occupy sites of varying wetness in flat southwest Florida. The central and wettest area is occupied by a sawgrass marsh, surrounded by a virgin cypress forest containing many trees of impressive size. Through the swamp are scattered many orchid-rich pond apple "runs". The upland surrounding the swamp is occupied by pine woods.

The National Audubon Society has been interested in this area since 1912, when a warden was employed to protect its wood ibis and egret rookery. Some years ago, the Society started negotiations for the purchase of part of the area. The matter came to a head in 1954 when lumbering operations approached. The Nature Conservancy undertook to assist the National Audubon Society, and sizable contributions were obtained in the final week before logging operations were to start.

Including leased buffer land, the area now contains 5,760 acres. It is maintained by the National Audubon Society as a wildlife and plant sanctuary. Public access is limited to the headquarters area and to a boardwalk which enables people to observe in comfort the wonders of the sanctuary.

--RICHARD H. POUGH, Past-President, Nature Conservancy.

CRANBERRY BOG PRESERVE
(Tannersville Bog)
Monroe County, Pennsylvania

The Cranberry Bog, locally known as the "Cranberry," is situated two miles east of Tannersville, Pennsylvania. It is traversed by a slow stream and beneath it lie over thirty feet of peat and inorganic sediments. This is one of the most southern low-altitude bogs in the east containing typical northern bog species such as black spruce, tamarack, cranberry, bog rosemary and bog laurel. Two insectivorous plants, the sundew and pitcher plant, as well as rare bog orchids and dwarf mistletoe can be found here.

In the latter part of 1955 the Nature Conservancy approved the establishment of the Tannersville Bog Committee, consisting of fourteen local citizens, to preserve the area. A one-year option was obtained in December, 1955 to raise $2,000 for one of the most vital tracts comprising 62.5 acres. Over 150 individuals and organizations have contributed toward the preservation of this section, which was deeded to the Nature Conservancy in January, 1957. An additional nine acres, containing a fine stand of large white pine and an excellent rhododendron cover was acquired in October, 1958. Two more tracts totalling 100 acres or more should be acquired to complete the project.

--WILLIAM A. NIERING, Chairman, Cranberry Bog Preservation Committee.

CRANESVILLE SWAMP
Garrett Co., Md. and Preston Co., W. Va.

One of the little known but fascinating swamps straddles the Maryland-West Virginia State line. About three miles long and of varying width, this 500-acre area is the last known boreal swamp in a southern latitude. The swamp is a remnant of the conifer forest that followed the glaciers.

The Cranesville Swamp project was authorized in January 1958. The project is estimated to cost $10,000.
(E.N.M.)

DELAFIELD WOODS
Suffolk County, New York

Delafield Woods is a 15 acre nature preserve in the Village of Nissequogue on Long Island, New York. It is a part of an estate being given to the Nature Conservancy through the generosity of Mrs. Margaret Delafield.

The forest is a "park-like" area of rather mature second growth. Mrs. Delafield's late father was a great admirer of the English type of woodland, so that the undergrowth was trimmed out rather completely many years ago. Crooked, deformed, and diseased trees were removed so the forest today is composed of rather well spaced strong vigorous trees of oaks, beech and hickories. In the past several decades, the undergrowth has developed so that there is now a fine under-story of dogwood and mountain laurel, as well as a ground cover of such plants as arbutus, blueberry, and moccasin flower. (E.N.M.)

DOME ISLAND MEMORIAL SANCTUARY
Warren County, New York

Dome Island Memorial Sanctuary is a heavily wooded glacial kame of 16 acres near the center of Lake George. It is steep-sided, about 85 feet high and one-half mile long, and supports an old-growth forest. Its soil is glacial till, comprising boulders, gravels and clay, thus subject to landslip and severe erosion when disturbed. It has been stabilized by the dense forest and by the natural boulder barrier along the shore. The forest is composed chiefly of white and black oak, red and white pine, beech, basswood, hemlock and paper birch; with a fringe of white cedar along the waterline.

The island has been left in its original condition, and has been carefully protected by Mr. John S. Apperson of Schenectady for the past 40 years, and for the last 15 years in his ownership. He conveyed it to the Nature Conservancy by gift in December, 1956, with the proviso that an endowment fund of $20,000 be established for the island's maintenance as a sanctuary and to promote a program of scientific studies and public education. This fund has been raised by many contributors and the generosity of Theodore M. Edison of New Jersey.

Maintenance requires the employment of a custodian during the summer months for protection against fire or damage by visitors. Visitors are permitted under proper restriction to prevent impairment, but the sanctuary serves its chief purpose as a scenic masterpiece among the numerous islands in Lake George.

--ALVIN G. WHITNEY, Nature Conservancy Representative for New York State.

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GREAT FALLS OF THE POTOMAC
Fairfax County, Virginia

The Great Falls project is the subject of a three-way agreement between the National Park Service, Fairfax County, and the Nature Conservancy. The Park Service put into its 1960 budget estimate an item for $500,000 to assist in acquiring the lands. This was denied by the House Appropriations Committee in March 1959. The County and the Conservancy have each agreed to raise $250,000. In all about 800 acres are involved on the Virginia side of the river adjacent to the Great Falls of the Potomac, about 15 miles from Washington, D.C.(E.N.M.)

HELLEN CREEK HEMLOCK PRESERVE
Calvert County, Maryland

The Hellen Creek Hemlock Preserve, on the edge of a tidal marsh on Hellen Creek, a few miles from Solomons Island, Maryland, is an isolated 21-acre stand of eastern hemlock. The area is the most southerly known growth of hemlock along the coast itself. Hemlock, a native of the mountains, is not normally found in the coastal area, but records show that it to have grown here from colonial times.

The trees grow close to the tidal marsh edge where in season rose mallow is found. Mixed with the hemlock along the slopes are laurel, beech, oaks and pine. On the less steep and formerly cultivated land, Virginia pine is dominant.

--G. FLIPPO GRAVATT, Nature Conservancy Representative for Maryland and District of Columbia.

HOLLY RIDGE PRESERVE
Stoddard County, Missouri

The Holly Ridge Preserve in southeastern Missouri is an 80 acre bit of old woodland in which are found many mature holly trees. This stand is the most northern extension of holly in the lower Mississippi River Valley.

The grove is located on Crowley's Ridge. This is a large area of loessal soils, formed by wind action during glacial times, parallel to the Mississippi River and running from Missouri down into Arkansas. On this tract are several springs and interesting landscape forms caused by past erosion of the Ridge. (E.N.M.)

WM. L. HUTCHESON MEMORIAL FOREST
Somerset County, New Jersey

The William L. Hutcheson Memorial Forest, formerly known as "Mettler's Woods," is a 65-acre remnant of essentially virgin hardwood forest near East Millstone, New Jersey. One of the few remaining examples of the forest that once occupied much of the northern Piedmont, the tract is used in the ecological research of nearby universities, especially Rutgers University. The crowns of the oaks and hickories that form the forest canopy tower far above the understory of dogwood. The forest land with its associated 70-acre buffer area is gently rolling.

The campaign to acquire the property began in the spring of 1950 and was consummated in 1955 when the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners agreed to furnish $75,000, the full price of the land. This organization purchased the land and turned the deed over to Rutgers University. The forest was named after a former president of the union--William L. Hutcheson.

The Nature Conservancy helped raise funds. The many contributions made possible the Rutgers University Forest Ecological Project Fund for expenses in connection with the Forest.

--MURRAY F. BUELL, Department of Botany, Rutgers University.

KINGS POINT POND
Nassau County, Long Island, New York

Kings Point Pond, a preserve of 15 acres, is almost entirely water. This shallow pond provides a resting area in city surroundings for many migratory water-birds such as herons, ducks and the like, and a nesting area for the resident aquatic birds some of whom remain year-round.

The Pond is a gift to Nature Conservancy from the Kings Point Pond Associates, a local corporation which is currently being dissolved. Not only was the property given, but an $8,000 contribution was made to reconstruct the dam which maintains a fairly constant water level in the pond. The members of the Associates include Mr. & Mrs. Frank Calderone, Mortimer Berk, Arthur Covitz, Arthur Wolh, Jack Frank, Edward Shapiro, Louis C. Chesler, J. C. Neuhoff, and Herman Brinkman. A tenth member, now deceased, apparently left no heirs to his estate.

(E.N.M.)

LYNX PRAIRIE
Adams County, Ohio

The Lynx Prairie area contains some 300 acres of which about 50 acres is climax tall-grass prairie. Some of the area has been invaded by red-cedar and more recently by Virginia pine. The prairie, which has been grazed but never plowed is surrounded by border shrubs and small tree growth. The grassland is broken by numerous shallow wooded ravines. Some of the woodlands have been modified by cutting.

Many of the prairie plants are locally rare, and are relic communities far distant from but much like the prairies further west. The prairie soil is a rendzina, a type indicating long occupancy by grassland.

--E. LUCY BRAUN, University of Cincinnati.

MAMACOKE ISLAND
New London, Connecticut

Mamacoke Island is a 40-acre rocky wooded peninsula jutting out into the Thames River and connected to the west shore by a small salt marsh. Although on the very edge of the city of New London, Connecticut, it has been remarkably little disturbed since colonial times.

The island was purchased in 1955 from Merritt, Chapman & Scott Corporation, and was given to Connecticut College as an addition to the Connecticut Arboretum, with the stipulation that it be used for "recreational, educational or scientific purposes, said land and salt marsh remaining substantially in its wild character with its natural features preserved". No roads or ways are to be constructed except foot paths or bridle trails. A reverter clause in the deed provides that title to the property shall pass to the Connecticut Forest and Park Association or to the Nature Conservancy upon failure of Connecticut College to fulfil these conditions. Fifteen thousand dollars was contributed by 257 individuals and 29 organizations for this project, and an endowment fund of $1,000 was established by the Conservation and Research Foundation.

--RICHARD H. GOODWIN, Director of the Connecticut Arboretum.

MIANUS RIVER GORGE WILDLIFE REFUGE AND BOTANICAL PRESERVE
Westchester County, New York

The Mianus River Gorge Wildlife Refuge and Botanical Preserve, presently 148 acres in size, extends for a distance of approximately one and one-third miles along the Gorge and banks of the Mianus River in the Townships of North Castle and Pound Ridge, New York. A continuous tract has been acquired by deed and purchase along the west bank of the river. But some 40 to 50 acres are still to be obtained along the east bank to afford full protection of the entire area--hoped ultimately to be about 200 acres in extent. About half of this is expected as gifts, but the remainder may have to be purchased.

This natural area contains a magnificent climax forest of hemlocks, estimated in many instances to be up to 300 years old. The terrain is rugged and spectacular, with mineral outcroppings of many varieties. Bold rocky promontories jut out in the Gorge several hundred feet above the river as it makes its way through a series of rapids to Long Island Sound, some fifteen miles to the south.

Promotion of educational, scientific and recreational activities are implemented by committees on trails, facilities, and education and by scientific teams concerned with studies of trees, wildflowers, lichens, mosses, fungi, birds, mammals and reptiles.

Historically this project dates from December 12, 1953, when a group of conservation minded residents of Fairfield County, Connecticut, and Westchester County, New York, accompanied by professional advisors, made a field trip through the Gorge. At luncheon directly thereafter, it was resolved to organize for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining the area. Affiliation, on the committee level, with the Nature Conservancy followed early the next year at which time a formal organization--The Mianus River Gorge Conservation Committee was set up, comprising six officers, a board of trustees and an advisory committee.

Enthusiastic support was immediately forthcoming from garden clubs and fund raising on a modest scale was begun, supported by some highly effective publicity, exhibits and speeches before conservation groups. Title to the first 60 acres of land was obtained in 1955 and acquisitions have continued thereafter. Policies and practices, conforming with those of the Nature Conservancy, were set up in 1956.

The tracts acquired to date total 148 acres, of which 125 were purchased and 23 donated. Gifts of from 10 to 20 additional acres are anticipated, leaving 30 to 40 to be purchased to achieve the immediate objective of approximately 200 acres. The purchase price has ranged from $500 to $1,000 per acre, depending upon location and the generosity of the seller. Ownership of and title to all land is vested in the Nature Conservancy.

At the present time, more than 90 conservation-minded organizations and more than 1000 individuals have contributed to the saving of the Mianus River Gorge. Approximately $40-50,000 is needed to complete the necessary acquisitions and provide an endowment fund for perpetual maintenance and protection.

--MR. & MRS. ANTHONY ANABLE, Treasurer and Secretary, Mianus River Gorge Conservation Committee.

MOSS LAKE NATURE SANCTUARY
Allegany County, New York

The Western New York Chapter was created in 1957 primarily to purchase the lake and surrounding territory as a nature preserve. The Conservancy now owns and manages about 80 acres of lake, bog, woods, and fields at one of the prettiest spots in southwestern New York.

The lake is the remnant of a large iceberg. Wide areas along the shores are now covered with deep bog and moss, full of rich and interesting vegetation, such as leatherleaf, bog laurel, pitcher plant, sundew (two species), bladderwort, cranberry (two species), etc. This is probably the only spot in western New York where the bog ground-pine and the rare club-moss may be found. Peat moss of fine quality made its mining a threat to the area.

The protective buffer zone contains numerous species of trees, shrubs, and plants of interest, including shadbush, arbutus, azalea, huckleberry, blueberries, holly, button bush, sweet-fern, dwarf cornel, rose pogonia, ladies' slipper, painted trillium, Indian pipe, Indian cucumber, and many others. Nearby Houghton College has for years found the area to be a natural gem for its botanical studies.

A beautiful 2-1/2 by 20-foot photo mural of the lake area is on display in the Buffalo Museum of Science. The Sanctuary was dedicated in 1958.

--AXEL HEILBORN, former Chairman of Western New York Chapter.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COAST RANGE PRESERVE
Mendocino County, California

The 6,500 acres of rugged, forested mountains in the Coast Range of northern California constitutes the Nature Conservancy's largest project to date. Rich in scenic beauty, this wilderness tract contains a full cross-section of the unspoiled vegetation and landscape of the region. It is on the South Fork of the Eel River, half way between the Redwood Highway (U.S. 101) and the coast, in northern Mendocino County.

The heart of the project is a 3,000 acre property which the Conservancy plans to purchase for $100,000. The owners, Mr. and Mrs. Heath Angelo of Branscomb, have protected it personally for many years and have generously agreed to turn it over to the Conservancy at far less than its estimated worth of over a million dollars, that it may be permanently preserved.

Public lands under jurisdiction of the U. S. Bureau of Land Management comprise the rest of the proposed preserve. These 3,500 acres are essential to extend the project to its natural ridge-top boundaries, to facilitate protection and to safeguard the watershed. Arrangements are under way to incorporate these lands into the project.

The outstanding attraction of the Preserve is the entire undisturbed watershed of Elder Creek. This sizeable stream, draining some 5,000 acres, offers a superb example of virgin stream conditions. Roadless and largely trailless, the drainage basin has kept a true wilderness character. Because of its high relief, its altitude from 1,350 to 4,200 feet, the variety of soils, and many exposures, a great many diverse natural habitats are contained within the watershed.

The lowland contains a pure dense Douglas-fir forest; the higher slopes bear stands of mixed hardwoods and chaparral. In some places are grassy "balds". Natural fires have swept some portions of the Preserve at different times so several stages of succession are represented from maximum size and old age to the young firs spreading into hardwoods and brush. More easily accessible portions along the River contain meadows and small groves of virgin redwoods with specimens up to nine feet in diameter.

The Coast Range wilderness is fast vanishing. Most of the region will soon be cut over. Already the forest lands surrounding the Preserve have been cut over and crisscrossed with roads, so that entire mountain sides are subject to disastrous erosion. It is probable that this area represents the last available opportunity to set aside such a tract in this region, where no similar reservation exists. Another such virgin stream probably does not exist.

For those wishing to make substantial contributions, the Conservancy has decided that outstanding portions of the Preserve, such as individual large redwoods, the various redwood groves, and some of the more striking dense stands of the mature fir forest, may be designated as memorials.

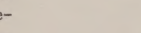
--WILLIAM DRAKE, Western Representative, Nature Conservancy.

PAWLING PRESERVE
Dutchess County, New York

Pawling Preserve, a 1,000-acre tract was deeded to the Nature Conservancy on June 6, 1958, through the generosity of the Aiken Hall Association of Pawling. The area is valued at about $70,000. The Preserve is about five miles northeast of Pawling, and lies to the west and north of spring-fed Quaker Lake. From the ridge top (elevation 1,055 feet) and slopes of Hammersly Ridge a magnificent view of the Lake and the Pawling Valley opens up.

About 80 percent of the Preserve is upland forest in which oaks and other hardwoods predominate. The balance of the area is low and largely swampy in character.

A Management Committee for the area has been established with C. Francis Beatty as Chairman. Other members include: Mrs. Raymond Gunnison, Lowell Thomas, Charles Daniels, Floyd Dewitt, Dr. Scott Warthin, Stanley Grierson, Thomas Brophy, Robert Ducas, Victor Cahalane, and Daniel Smiley. (E.N.M.)



PINE HILLS PRESERVE
Montgomery County, Indiana

Pine Hills is the most spectacular and best-preserved unit in the "biological oasis" of the Sugar Creek Valley in west-central Indiana. The valley winds snake-like through flat, intensively farmed till plains and its dark forests spread talon-like into the uplands along ravines. The main stream has cut more than 200 feet in depth. Its tributaries are generally of steep gradient and bordered by impressive canyon walls.

Pine Hills is widely known by virtue of several slender "backbones" that have been etched by the meandering streams. The most spectacular of these is the Devil's Backbone, a narrow ridge only 3 or 4 feet wide at one place, more than 100 feet long, and about 100 feet high. Another spine was used as a natural dam to supply power for a woolen mill that was operated at its base nearly a century ago.

Through the dedication of Frank Hasselman and his mother Ida Blood Hasselman, the Pine Hills tract was assembled during the early years of this century. A brother, Lawrence Hasselman, later purchased adjacent land that complements the original tract. Following the deaths of Frank and Lawrence, the tract was uninhabited, but was carefully administered by Victor Hasselman for the several heirs. There are 26 parcels in the 600-acre tract.

Nature Conservancy first entered negotiations with the Hasselman family in 1954. Options were signed by two of the owners, but negotiations were not successful with the others. The lack of funds prevented an outright purchase, so negotiations were frozen until 1957. At that time, extensions were signed on the standing options and negotiations were reopened. Part of the cost is being met by a number of civic leaders in Crawfordsville, Indiana. The Indiana Department of the American Legion has indicated its willingness to raise the balance required. The local Mid-States Steel Company has also pledged fencing material for the area.

--JACK MCCORMICK, Torrey Botanical Club.

SMOKY HOLLOW BOG
Long Island, New York

This small bog nestled among the sand dunes of the barrier beach on the south shore of Long Island has achieved the distinction of being the first nature preserve acquired by the Nature Conservancy on Long Island. Despite its small size--one-half acre--it comprises one of the last remaining cranberry and sphagnum bogs on western Long Island. It also is especially noteworthy for the profusion of the Rose Pogonia Orchid, which has been exterminated on Long Island except in isolated areas near its eastern end. The bog itself has a marginal shrub border containing dune plants similar to those occuring in the more famous neighboring Sunken Forest Sanctuary, five miles west.

Smoky Hollow was deeded to the Nature Conservancy through the cooperative efforts of the Long Island Chapter of the Conservancy, a local committee headed by Mr. and Mrs. John Thorpe, and the generosity of Dr. Warren Smadbeck, President of the Home Guardian Company of New York. Due to intensive summer home construction in the area surrounding the preserve, a wire fence has been placed along its boundary.

The area was dedicated and a bronze plaque erected, in 1956.

--GEORGE H. PETERS, Chairman, Technical Advisory Committee, Long Island Chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

SUNKEN FOREST
Fire Island Beach, Long Island, New York

The Sunken Forest, primeval and unique, is the most notable section of the mature barrier-beach forest lying along the Great South Bay, which divides Fire Island Beach from the south shore of Long Island. This forest area has been formed behind a long, continuous sand dune, about 35 feet in height, which parallels the Atlantic Ocean. This dune constitutes the backbone of the Fire Island strip.

The sense, flat canopy of the forest has a smooth, clipped appearance and the interior, as one winds down into it from the top of its protecting dune, seems dark and mysterious. Between the forest and the ocean is an interesting open swale occupied by many examples of low-growing beach vegetation which enjoy the protection of a series of small dunes fronting directly on the ocean beach. The dominant tree of the forest is the holly, but tupelo, sassafras, oak, and pitch-pine are also numerous.

The campaign to preserve the area started in 1951. Then a nearby summer resident, with the help of two friends, bought in the key properties and prevented an imminent sale which would have resulted in the "development" of these properties. The American Museum of Natural History helped foster interest in the project. The Nature Conservancy initiated the campaign to preserve the forest and during the early stages handled some of the funds donated for this purpose. Later this financial function was taken over for a limited time by Wildlife Preserves, Inc. In 1952 the first purchase had been made.

Meanwhile, in 1952, Mr. and Mrs. James N. Dunlop, both members of Committees of the Museum, had been drafted for the campaign. In 1953 they became co-chairmen of the Forest-saving Committee and in stirring up enthusiasm for the project among the Point o'Woods summer residents directly to the west, the garden clubs, and conservationists. With gifts large and small from residents and clubs and from generous individuals and foundations in widely scattered communities, the project has been brought, after six years of determined effort, to its present satisfactory state.

As early as 1953 the committee had begun working for ownership of the area by an independent corporation. In June, 1955, the Sunken Forest Preserve, Inc., a non-profit membership corporation, became the sole legal owner of about 61 acres of land, including the Sunken Forest itself. In October, 1956, an additional 12-acre tract lying between the 61 acres and Point o'Woods was acquired. These two tracts together form the present preserve of 73 acres. It has a length of over half a mile from east to west and it extends a quarter mile from ocean to bay.

It has taken upwards of $125,000 to make safe this interesting and unique area. Contributions are still being accepted for various aspects of the continuing effort to ensure this splendid legacy for posterity.

--JAMES N. DUNLOP
President, Sunken Forest Preserve, Inc.

THOMPSON POND
Dutchess County, New York

At the foot of a wild steep mountain in northeastern Dutchess County, New York, lies a marshy glacial lake of notable and undisturbed beauty. Locally known as "Thompson Pond," this relic of the Ice-Age is fast becoming unique in the Hudson River Valley. It is a gem in a gorgeous setting.

Thompson Pond lies near the village of Pine Plains, in a beautiful agricultural valley about 100 miles north of New York City. The lake is over half a mile long and slightly over a quarter mile wide. The water covers about 100 acres. Broad fringes of marsh gradually merge into the upland around much of the shore. To the west of the lake, Stissing Mountain rises abruptly to tower a full thousand feet over the Pond.

The marsh at Thompson Pond contains, in general, a mixture of cattails and many other species of water-loving plants. One large shallow bay has an extraordinary growth of white water-lilies. A wide variety of marsh animals is found in the general area. The rich bird life has been intensively studied for many years. Observations at Thompson Pond are a basic element in "The Birds of Dutchess County, New York" by Ludlow Griscom, a leading publication on the birds of a single county in this country. The Pond is considered to be one of the best locations for water birds in the Hudson Valley region.

A campaign to acquire the area began in 1958.

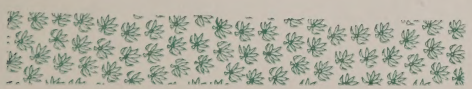
--ELTING ARNOLD, Secretary, Nature Conservancy.

TUCKER PRAIRIE
Callaway County, Missouri

Just 15 miles east of Columbia, Missouri, in a region of intensive agriculture, lie 160 acres of tall-grass prairie that has never been plowed. Each year, the prairie has been threatened by intensive grazing and by plowing.

A generous grant from the National Science Foundation in 1957 plus gifts from the Missouri chapter of the Nature Conservancy and many public-spirited citizens, made possible the acquisition of the area to be known as The Tucker Prairie Research Area of the University of Missouri.

The area is fenced with access to those who desire to look for some of the more than 150 plant species found there. Since protection has been provided, prairie chickens, after an absence of fifteen years, have appeared.
(E.N.M.)



VOLO AND WAUCONDA BOGS
Lake County, Illinois

These two famous bogs, about 40 miles northwest of Chicago, have long been known to naturalists. Indeed, they have been a mecca for students of bogs and have been used for class studies by several universities. The Volo Bog contains 40 acres; Wauconda, 67 acres. The bogs are about seven miles apart and both within a mile of U. S. Highway 12.

Volo Bog is one of the best bogs in Illinois. In the center is a small pond about 200 feet across, all that remains of the lake that once occupied the entire bog basin. Tamarack trees grow in profusion almost to the edge of the water, the open space usually surrounding a bog lake having disappeared. Beneath the trees is a good growth of sphagnum with some leatherleaf, pitcher plants, and other bog species. Poison sumac is present and aspen has appeared in some places. Surrounding the tamaracks is a zone of black alder and winterberry, a species of holly.

Wauconda Bog is older, from the standpoint of plant succession. It also contains tamarack but the trees are scattered and there is no pond. Zones of vegetation are not so distinct. Many interesting species are present, including some not found in Volo Bog.

This bog project has now been virtually completed through the efforts of Dr. Julian A. Steyermark of the Chicago Natural History Museum; Dr. Margery C. Carlson, Northwestern University; and Cyrus Mark, Clayton, Mark & Company of Evanston. Currently plans are under way for a dedication during 1959. (E.N.M.)

FREDERIC C. WALCOTT PRESERVE
(Beckley Bog)
Litchfield County, Connecticut

The Frederic C. Walcott Preserve, which is located in a narrow valley near Norfolk, Conn., was established by an initial purchase of 198 acres, May 1937. Forested with hemlock, white pine, and northern hardwoods, the area also contains a small bog lake, Beckley Pond. At its northern end is Beckley Bog, one of the finest bogs to be found in Connecticut. On the extensive bog heath, some of it floating, may be found the characteristic northern species of conifers (black spruce and larch), ericaceous shrubs, and associated wild flowers. To the south is a natural sedge meadow.

Action on this project was initiated by the Natural Areas Committee of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association. The Beckley Bog Committee of the Nature Conservancy, including all of the members of the Forest and Park Association Committee, raised over $21,000 from 300 contributors for its purchase. Some additional property should still be acquired to round out this project.

--WILLIAM A. NIERING and RICHARD H. GOODWIN, Co-Chairman, Beckley Bog Committee.

WOLF SWAMP SANCTUARY
Suffolk County, Long Island, New York

The Wolf Swamp Sanctuary, 20 acres in extent, is a generous and substantial gift to Nature Conservancy from Mrs. Elizabeth M. Tilton of Southampton, Long Island. The area, all in forest, is a deep strip between the Millstone Brook Road and the northerly shore of Big Fresh Pond, a lake more than 100 acres in extent. In giving the land to the Conservancy in May 1957, Mrs. Tilton specified that it was to be a permanent wildlife sanctuary.

The area is adjacent to Elliston Park which belongs to the Southampton Township. A chain link fence erected by the Long Island Chapter, protects it from vandalism.

(E.N.M.)

WOODBOURNE FOREST AND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania

The Woodbourne Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary, a 478-acre tract located in northeastern Pennsylvania, is a typical remnant of our "northeastern hemlock-hardwood association." Mr. and Mrs. Francis R. Cope, Jr. and his daughter, Theodora Cope Sumner, presented the area to the Nature Conservancy in April, 1956, to be forever preserved in its natural state for scientific, educational, and inspirational purposes. It is the last of some 26,000 acres purchased in 1818 by Thomas P. Cope, I, of Philadelphia.

The area contains about 200 acres of almost virgin forest, 150 acres of adjoining second-growth and 40 acres of conifer plantations including red pine, red and white spruce, Englemann spruce, balsam and Douglas fir. The whole forest area is surrounded by a buffer zone of pasture and meadow land. There are several good springs and a small bog pond in a 20-acre swamp.

The varied topography and cover supports an unusual variety of plant and animal life. Parts of the old forest--though damaged by hurricanes in 1950 and 1954--are still impressive for the size and variety of their trees. Some hemlocks are known to be over 250 years of age, a few over 300, and there is an authentic record of one old giant felled some 20 years ago that had 327 growth rings. Preliminary studies over the years have recorded 30 species of trees, 25 shrubs, 27 ferns, 7 species of Lycopodium, and over 100 kinds of wild flowers. The fauna includes 28 mammals, 50 species of nesting birds, mostly representing the Canadian and Transition Zones, besides a goodly number of fish and reptiles. No careful study has yet been made of the insect life; and since recent storm damage there is much to learn regarding the changing ecology of the whole fauna and flora.

The Local Committee of Management consists of several prominent citizens and representatives of numerous outdoor clubs. A guardian who resides on the premises assists visitors, safeguards the property, and maintains boundary fences and trails.

Since the Sanctuary was opened to the public in 1957 the number of visitors has steadily increased. Two simple trails have now been laid out, marked by red painted rocks. These trails lead along swamp and stream borders and through the varied forest types, thus revealing a wide variety of animals and plants.

Since many of the visitors have never before seen an old-growth forest, they have often wanted an experienced guide. Mr. and Mrs. Cope, as well as several members of the Management Committee, have gladly offered their services whenever possible, but it is becoming increasingly clear that as Woodbourne becomes better known, there will be an ever greater need for a resident naturalist.

This situation suggests the necessity for greater financial support. Meanwhile a committee is now completing a shorter but varied marked trail which should enable visitors to guide themselves and to learn about the forest and its treasures without disturbance.

A folder, containing a sketch map, will give a brief history of the forest, suggested birds, plants, and mammals to look for, and a few necessary rules and regulations to avoid fire hazards and the scattering of dangerous and unsightly litter.

Prospects are bright for making the Woodbourne Forest and Wildlife Sanctuary not only a means of preserving a beautiful forest and its surroundings, but also for educating the local community to a real understanding of what true conservation should mean for the benefit of all people. This Sanctuary will be of ever greater value as population and industrial pressures steadily encroach on our remaining wild areas.

(F. R. C.)

The Nature Conservancy is an independent member-governed organization dedicated to saving America's heritage of wild nature. Its specific objective is to preserve natural areas as "living museums". Such tracts are precious for their scientific, educational, and aesthetic values. They provide a home for many living things that would otherwise be destroyed by our civilization.

The work of the organization began in 1917 under the direction of a committee of the Ecological Society of America. In 1946, the Ecologists Union was formed to take over the task. In 1950, the name was changed to The Nature Conservancy: incorporation in the District of Columbia took place in 1951.

Nature Conservancy now has a national membership of approximately 3,000. It operates through a series of chapters, of which thirteen have been organized to date. It has acquired, by gift or purchase, 20 nature preserves in nine states, having an area of some 2,500 acres. These range in size from one acre to 1,000 acres. Nature Conservancy is now actively working toward the acquisition of additional natural areas in six additional states, the total area of which is about 8,000 acres.

The members of The Nature Conservancy invite you to join in its work. Membership is open to both individuals and organizations. A contribution of $3 or more entitles you to annual membership, one of $100 or more to life membership, and one of $1,000 or more to patron membership. Your contribution is an allowable income tax deduction.

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